



Remarks

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 10, 2002. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application. To advance this Application expeditiously to issuance, the following changes have been made:

- (a) Claims 1, 6, 19, 22, 27, and 32 have been canceled.
- (b) Claims 7, 10, 23, 25, 33, and 36 have been rewritten to explicitly recite limitations of Claims 1, 6, 19, 22, 27, and 32 already contained in Claims 7, 10, 23, 25, 33, and 36 by virtue of their dependency on Claims 1, 6, 19, 22, 27, and 32, respectively. Accordingly, these amendments do not narrow these claims.
- (c) Claims 2-5 and 8-9 have been amended to depend on now independent Claim 7. Claims 20-21 and 24 have been amended to depend on now independent Claim 23. Claims 28-31 and 34-35 have been amended to depend on now independent Claim 33.
- (d) New Claims 45-66 have been added.

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None of these changes are considered necessary for patentability and should not be construed as acquiescence to or agreement with the Examiner's statements in the Office Action, particularly those concerning the disclosure or teaching of a reference or the scope of limitations recited in Applicant's claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to 7, 10-12, 17-18, 23, 25-26, 33, 36-38, and 43-44 as depending on rejected Claims, 1, 6, 19, 22, 27, 32, and 39, respectively, but acknowledges that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten Claims 7, 10, 23, 25, 33, and 36. Applicants have also amended Claims 2-5 and 8-9 to depend on now independent Claim 7, amended Claims 20-21 and 24 to depend on now independent Claim 23, and amended Claims 28-31 and 34-35 to depend on now independent Claim 33. Claims 11 and 12 depend on now independent Claim 10, Claim 26 depends on now independent Claim 25, and Claims 37-38 depend on now independent Claim 36. Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that Claims 17-18 and 43-44 would be allowable if

rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants believe that Claims 17-18 depend on allowable independent Claim 13 and Claims 43-44 depend on allowable independent Claim 39, as discussed below. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

The Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejects Claims 3, 7, 15, 21, 23, 29, 33, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully disagree. The claim language “the group” recited in these claims is proper for a Markush group. *See* MPEP §2173.05(h). However, Applicants have amended Claims 3, 7, 15, 21, 23, 29, 33, and 41. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3, 7, 15, 21, 23, 29, 33, and 41.

The Claims are Allowable over *Acampora*

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 13, 15-16, 19, 21-22, 24, 27, 29-32, 34-35, 39, and 41-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,593,282 to *Acampora et al.* (“*Acampora*”).

As discussed above, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 6, 19, 22, 27, and 32 and have rewritten Claims 7, 10, 23, 25, 33, and 36 (already acknowledged to be allowable) in independent form. Applicants have also amended Claims 2-5 and 8-9 to depend on now independent Claim 7, amended Claims 20-21 and 24 to depend on now independent Claim 23, and amended Claims 28-31 and 34-35 to depend on now independent Claim 33. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 7, 10, 23, 25, 33, and 36, together with all claims that depend on Claims 7, 10, 23, 25, 33, and 36.

Independent Claim 13 of the present application recites:

A telecommunications device, comprising:
a local area network;
a plurality of receivers coupled to the network; and
a sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a message packet comprising a destination code and a data packet, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the sender operable to identify one or more receivers for the data packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers, the sender operable to communicate the data packet to the identified receivers.

Claim 39 recites certain substantially similar limitations. Applicants note that the Examiner rejected Claims 13 and 39 and did not discuss, among other things, a “destination code having values for a plurality of positions,” as recited in Claims 13 and 39. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *See Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987); M.P.E.P. § 2131. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is improper. Moreover, *Acampora* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the combination of features specifically recited in Claims 13 and 39.

For example, *Acampora* does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the message packet includes the “destination code having values for a plurality of positions,” as recited in Claims 13 and 39. In regard to dependent Claims 9 and 42, the Examiner states that *Acampora* discloses “a destination code 512, the sender operable to communicate the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.” (Office Action, page 4) Applicants submit that this is immaterial for at least two reasons. First, the Examiner cites a portion of *Acampora* that describes generic bus and ring network architectures and does not disclose, teach, or suggest the “destination code having values for a plurality of positions.” Second, *Acampora* merely teaches that, in regard to destination address 512, “a header portion 511 [of a data packet]... includes destination and source address information 512 and 513.” (Column 6, Lines 54-56 and FIGURE 5) Applicants submit that the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *See Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989). For example, *Acampora* does not disclose, teach, or suggest identifying “one or more receivers for the data packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers,” as recited in Claims 13 and 39. Because the single destination address 512 disclosed in *Acampora* does not include values for a plurality of positions, *Acampora* necessarily cannot disclose, teach, or suggest the recited identification of one or more receivers according to the values of the positions.

For at least these reasons, *Acampora* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the limitations recited in Claims 13 and 39, whether *Acampora* is considered alone or in combination with any other reference of record or with knowledge of one skilled in the art at the time of the invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 13 and 39, together with all claims that depend on Claims 13 and 39.



The Claims are Allowable over *Acampora* in view of *Ilydis*

The Examiner rejects Claims 2, 14, 20, 28, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,593,282 to *Acampora* in view of U.S. Patent 5,898,694 to *Ilydis* et al. ("*Ilydis*").

As discussed above, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 19, and 23 and have rewritten Claims 7, 23, and 33 (already acknowledged to be allowable) in independent form. Applicants have also amended Claims 2, 20, and 28 to depend on now independent Claims 7, 23, and 33, respectively. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2, 20, and 28.

Remaining Claims 14 and 40 are allowable at least because they depend on Claims 13 and 39, respectively, which Applicants have shown above to be allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 14 and 40.

New Claims 45-66 are Allowable

New independent Claims 45, 52, 55, 61, and 66 recite, among other things, limitations similar to those recited in independent Claims 33, 36, 39, 39, and 33, respectively. For at least the reasons that Claims 33, 36, and 39 are allowable, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of new independent Claims 45, 52, 55, 61, and 66, together with all claims that depend on Claims 45, 52, 55, and 61.



Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Christopher W. Kennerly, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6812.

Applicants enclose a check for \$960.00 to cover the cost of filing 8 additional independent claims and 16 additional claims total. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Kennerly".

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Date: October 23, 2002

**Markups Reflecting Changes to the Specification****In the Specification**

On Page 1, under the heading "Related Applications," please replace the paragraph beginning at Line 2 with:

This application is related to:

U.S. Application No. **09/328,038** [09/_____] for a "HIGH AVAILABILITY LOCAL AREA NETWORK FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE," filed June 8, 1999 [by **Brent K. Parrish, Ronald A. McCracken, and John J. Fernald (062891.0287)**], **now U.S. Patent No. 6,425,009**;

U.S. Application No. **09/327,700** [09/_____] for a "TDM SWITCHING SYSTEM AND ASIC DEVICE," filed June 8, 1999 [by **Brent K. Parrish and Werner E. Niebel (062891.0288)**], **currently pending**;

U.S. Application No. **09/327,971** [09/_____] for a "PROTECTION BUS AND METHOD FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE," filed June 8, 1999 [by **Brent K. Parrish and John P. Barry (062891.0306)**], **currently pending**;

U.S. Application No. **09/328,173** [09/_____] for a "EVENT INITIATION BUS AND ASSOCIATED FAULT PROTECTION FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE," filed June 8, 1999 [by **Brent K. Parrish, Ronald A. McCracken, and John J. Fernald (062891.0307)**], **now U.S. Patent No. 6,434,703**;

U.S. Application No. **09/328,031** [09/_____] for a "FRAME SYNCHRONIZATION AND FAULT PROTECTION FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE," filed June 8, 1999 [by **Brent K. Parrish (062891.0308)**], **currently pending**;

U.S. Application No. **09/328,172** [09/_____] for a "TRANSITIONING A STANDARDS-BASED CARD INTO A HIGH AVAILABILITY BACKPLANE ENVIRONMENT," filed June 8, 1999 [by **Brent K. Parrish, Michael J. Taylor, and Michael P. Colton (062891.0309)**], **currently pending**; and

U.S. Application No. **09/330,433** [09/_____] for a "CLOCK SYNCHRONIZATION AND FAULT PROTECTION FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE," filed June 8, 1999 [by **Brent Parrish 062891.0310**], **currently pending**.

On Page 9, please replace the paragraph beginning at Line 3 with:

FIGURE 2 illustrates in further detail the components of switching unit 10. Service providers 14 communicate digital signals with each other using a backplane 20 that in a particular embodiment supports up to 16,384 time slots, corresponding to as many as 16,384 ports. In addition to control bus 16, switching unit controllers 12 and service providers 14 may be coupled to one another using a suitable combination of synchronization bus 22, power bus 24, reset bus 26, isolation bus 27, selection bus 28, and any other suitable buses according to particular needs. In one embodiment, at least one input/output (I/O) module 32 is associated with each service provider 14 to support incoming and outgoing communications between service provider 14 and an associated network interface over associated link 34. A protection bus 30 couples I/O modules 32 and generally operates with control bus 16 and its associated physical layer protocol to provide protection switching and other capabilities desirable in avoiding a single point of failure and satisfying high availability requirements. Protection bus 30 is described more fully below with reference to FIGURE 6 and also in copending U.S. Application No. 09/327,971 [09/ __, __].

On Page 10, please replace the paragraph beginning at Line 11 with:

In one embodiment, redundancy in connection with control bus 16 may apply to the physical transport media but not necessarily to the link layer and physical control devices. For example, as shown in FIGURE 3, a single controller 38 may be used in connection with duplicate control links 40a and 40b, duplicate data links 42a and 42b, and a transmission path through transmit buffer 48 and receive buffer 49 to support redundant "A" and "B" control buses 16. In response to a failure, controller 38 and the control of transmit and receive buffers 48 and 49, respectively, may be electrically isolated from other switching unit controllers 12 and service providers 14 according to a suitable isolation technique involving isolation bus 27 or otherwise. This helps to prevent a single point of failure from propagating within system 8 and helps to satisfy high availability requirements. Suitable isolation techniques involving isolation bus 27 are described more fully in [copending] U.S. Patent [Application Serial] No. 6,434,703 [09/ __, __].

On Page 14, please replace the paragraph beginning at Line 24 with:

Switching unit controllers 12 and service providers 14 desiring to communicate message packet 50 using control bus 16 each use some or all of arbitration code 54 to determine which competing sender will win the arbitration cycle corresponding to a particular transfer cycle and therefore be allowed to communicate message packet [30] 50 within that transfer cycle. An arbitration cycle may begin any time control bus 16 is deemed idle, as discussed more fully below with reference to FIGURE 7B. In one embodiment, an arbitration cycle is performed even if only one sender desires use of control bus 16. Within the

arbitration cycle, the sender having the highest message priority according to priority code 70 is awarded use of control bus 16 for the associated transfer cycle. If multiple senders have message packet 50 with the same priority code 70, then control bus 16 is awarded to the sender having the highest physical priority according to sender address 74. A sender that has been awarded use of control bus 16 as a result of the arbitration cycle may be referred to as the bus master for the associated transfer cycle, while all other cards including any losing senders may be referred to as slaves for the transfer cycle.

On Page 19, please replace the paragraph beginning at Line 22 with:

Because bus snooping allows one or more cards, one or more particular service providers 14 for example, to monitor message packets 50 destined for one or more other cards, destination codes 80 and receive codes 90 help support 1+1, N+1, N+X, and other suitable redundancy schemes often desirable in avoiding a single point of failure and satisfying high availability requirements. For example, receive code 90 for a redundant protection card 14 may be configured to allow the protection card 14 to snoop on or otherwise receive some or all message packets 50 destined for any protected cards 14 within a specified protection group. If one of the protected cards 14 fails, the protection card 14 may be informed of the failure and seamlessly assume at least some of the responsibilities of the failed protected card 14 until the failed protected card 14 can be replaced, repaired, or otherwise returned to service. One or more exemplary protection techniques involving bus 30 are described more fully in copending U.S. Application No. 09/327,971 [09/____,____].

On Page 21, please replace the paragraph beginning at Line 14 with:

SYS_CLK signal 110 is the common system clock that one or more switching unit controllers 12 drive during operation of switching unit 10 and that determines the timing of all transfers on control bus 16. In one embodiment, the clock is redundant, having an "A" and "B" pair, and software associated with switching unit 10 determines which "A" or "B" clock is to be used at any given time. In a particular embodiment, the clock operates at 8MHz, although the present invention contemplates any appropriate clock speed. Preferably, each switching unit controller 12 and service provider 14 will use a self-generated clock that is phase and frequency locked to the system clock rather than using the system clock directly. One or more ASIC devices associated with each switching unit controller 12 and service provider 14 may be used to generate such a synchronized clock. Clock synchronization within switching unit 10 is described more fully in copending U.S. Application No. 09/330,433 [09/____]. Exemplary ASIC devices capable of providing such clock synchronization are described more fully in copending U.S. Application No. 09/327,700 [09/____,____].



Markups Reflecting Changes to the Claims

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

2. (Amended) The device of Claim [1] 7, wherein the device is a switching unit further comprising a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

3. (Amended) The device of Claim [1] 7, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol [selected from the group consisting] **comprising one** of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

4. (Amended) The device of Claim [1] 7, wherein the arbitration code comprises:

a message priority code; and

a sender address.

5. (Amended) The device of Claim [1] 7, wherein the sender is operable to determine that it may not communicate the data packet if the first value does not match the network value.

Please cancel Claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

7. (Amended) [The device of Claim 6, wherein] **A telecommunications device, comprising:**

a local area network; and

a sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet, the sender operable to communicate a first value of the arbitration code using the network and to determine a network value, the sender operable to compare the first value with the network value to determine whether the sender may communicate the data packet using the network and further

operable to communicate a second value of the arbitration code using the network if the first value matches the network value;

the first and second values of the arbitration code [are selected from the group consisting] **comprising one** of:

- first and second message priority code values;
- a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and
- first and second sender address values.

8. (Amended) The device of Claim [1] 7, further comprising a second sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a second message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet, the second sender operable to communicate a first value of the arbitration code for the second message packet using the network and to determine the network value, the second sender operable to compare the first value for the second message packet with the network value to determine whether the second sender may communicate the data packet for the second message packet using the network.

9. (Amended) The device of Claim [1] 7, wherein the message packet further comprises a destination code, the sender operable to communicate the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

10. (Amended) [The device of Claim 1, further comprising] **A telecommunications device, comprising:**

a local area network;

a sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet, the sender operable to communicate a first value of the arbitration code using the network and to determine a network value, the sender operable to compare the first value with the network value to determine whether the sender may communicate the data packet using the network; and

a plurality of receivers also coupled to the network, the message packet further comprising a destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the sender identifying one or more receivers for the message packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers.

11. The device of Claim 10, wherein each receiver has an associated receive code comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, each receiver operable to receive the destination code and to compare the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of the receive code, each receiver operable to determine whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

12. The device of Claim 11, wherein at least one of the receivers is operable to perform network snooping according to its associated receive code.



13. A telecommunications device, comprising:
a local area network;
a plurality of receivers coupled to the network; and
a sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a message packet comprising destination code and a data packet, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the sender operable to identify one or more receivers for the data packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers, the sender operable to communicate the data packet to the identified receivers.

14. The device of Claim 13, wherein the device is a switching unit further comprising a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

15. **(Amended)** The device of Claim 13, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol [**selected from the group consisting**] **comprising one** of:

- Internet Protocol (IP);
- Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and
- User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

16. The device of Claim 13, wherein the sender is operable to communicate the data packet to one or more identified receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

17. The device of Claim 13, wherein the sender is operable to communicate the destination code to each receiver and each receiver has an associated receive code comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, each receiver operable to receive the destination code and to compare the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of the receive code, each receiver operable to determine whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

18. The device of Claim 17, wherein at least one of the receivers is operable to perform network snooping according to its associated receive code.

Please cancel Claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

20. (Amended) The message packet of Claim [19] 23, wherein the device is a switching unit comprising a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

21. (Amended) The message packet of Claim [19] 23, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol [selected from the group consisting] comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);
Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and
User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

Please cancel Claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

23. (Amended) [The message packet of Claim 22, wherein] A message packet for communication using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

a data packet; and

an arbitration code comprising a message priority code and a sender address, a first value of the arbitration code operable to be communicated using the network and to be compared with a network value to determine whether the sender may communicate the data packet to the receiver using the network, a second value of the arbitration code operable to be communicated using the network if the first value matches the network value, the first and second values of the arbitration code [are selected from the group consisting] comprising one of:

first and second message priority code values;
a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and
first and second sender address values.

24. (Amended) The message packet of Claim [19] 23, further comprising a destination code, the data packet operable to be communicated to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

25. (Amended) [The message packet of Claim 19, further comprising] A message packet for communication using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

a data packet;

an arbitration code comprising a message priority code and a sender address, a first value of the arbitration code operable to be communicated using the network and to be compared with a network value to determine whether the sender may communicate the data packet to the receiver using the network; and

a destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the values of the positions identifying one or more receivers for the data packet.

26. The message packet of Claim 25, wherein the value for at least one position of the destination code is operable to be compared with a value for at least one position of a receive code associated with a receiver to determine whether the receiver will receive the data packet.

Please cancel Claim 27 without prejudice or disclaimer.

28. (Amended) The method of Claim [27] 33, wherein the device is a switching unit having a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

29. (Amended) The method of Claim [27] 33, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol [selected from the group consisting] comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

30. (Amended) The method of Claim [27] 33, wherein the arbitration code comprises:

a message priority code; and

a sender address.

31. (Amended) The method of Claim [27] 33, wherein determining whether to communicate the data packet comprises:

determining that the first value does not match the network value; and

determining not to communicate the data packet.

Please cancel Claim 32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

33. (Amended) [The method of Claim 32, wherein] A method of communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

generating a message packet comprising an arbitration code and the data packet;

communicating a first value of the arbitration code using the network;

determining a network value;

determining that the first value matches the network value;

communicating a second value of the arbitration code; and

determining whether to communicate the data packet using the network;

the first and second values of the arbitration code **[are selected from the group consisting] comprising one** of:

- first and second message priority code values;
- a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and
- first and second sender address values.

34. **(Amended)** The method of Claim [27] 33, further comprising:
generating a second message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet;
communicating a first value of the arbitration code for the second message packet using the network;
determining the network value;
comparing the first value for the second message packet with the network value; and
determining whether to communicate the data packet for the second message packet using the network.

35. **(Amended)** The method of Claim [27] 33, wherein the message packet further comprises a destination code, the method further comprising communicating the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

36. **(Amended)** **[The method of Claim 27, wherein the message packet further comprises,] A method of communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:**

generating a message packet comprising an arbitration code, the data packet, and a destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver;

[, the method further comprising] identifying one or more receivers for the message packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers;

communicating a first value of the arbitration code using the network;

determining a network value;

comparing the first value with the network value; and

determining whether to communicate the data packet using the network.

37. The method of Claim 36, further comprising:

receiving the destination code;

comparing the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of a receive code, the receive code associated with a receiver and comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver; and

determining whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

38. The method of Claim 37, further comprising snooping on the network according to the receive code.

39. **(Amended)** A method of communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

generating a message packet comprising a destination code and the data packet, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each of the positions corresponding to a particular receiver;

identifying one or more receivers for the data packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers; and

[communicate] communicating the data packet to the identified receivers using the network.

40. The method of Claim 39, wherein the device is a switching unit having a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

41. **(Amended)** The method of Claim 39, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol **[selected from the group consisting] comprising one** of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

42. The method of Claim 39, wherein communicating the data packet comprises communicating the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

43. The method of Claim 39, further comprising:

receiving the destination code;

comparing the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of a receive code, the receive code associated with a receiver and comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver; and

determining whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

44. The method of Claim 43, further comprising snooping on the network according to the receive code.

45. (New) Logic for communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, the logic encoded in media and operable to:

generate a message packet comprising an arbitration code and the data packet;

communicate a first value of the arbitration code using the network;

determine a network value;

determine that the first value matches the network value;

communicate a second value of the arbitration code; and

determine whether to communicate the data packet using the network;

the first and second values of the arbitration code comprising one of:

first and second message priority code values;

a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and

first and second sender address values.

46. (New) The logic of Claim 45, wherein the device is a switching unit having a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

47. (New) The logic of Claim 45, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

48. (New) The logic of Claim 45, wherein the arbitration code comprises:

a message priority code; and

a sender address.

49. (New) The logic of Claim 45, wherein the logic operable to determine whether to communicate the data packet comprises the logic operable to:

determine that the first value does not match the network value; and

determine not to communicate the data packet.

50. (New) The logic of Claim 45, further operable to:
generate a second message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet;
communicate a first value of the arbitration code for the second message packet using
the network;
determine the network value;
compare the first value for the second message packet with the network value; and
determine whether to communicate the data packet for the second message packet
using the network.

51. (New) The logic of Claim 45, wherein the message packet further comprises a
destination code, the logic further operable to communicate the data packet to one or more
receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination
code.

52. (New) Logic for communicating a data packet using a local area network
within a telecommunications device, the logic encoded in media and operable to:
generate a message packet comprising an arbitration code, the data packet, and a
destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a
particular receiver;
identify one or more receivers for the message packet according to the values of the
positions corresponding to the receivers;
communicate a first value of the arbitration code using the network;
determine a network value;
compare the first value with the network value; and
determine whether to communicate the data packet using the network.

53. (New) The logic of Claim 52, further operable to:
receive the destination code;
compare the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at
least one position of a receive code, the receive code associated with a receiver and
comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular
receiver; and
determine whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

54. (New) The logic of Claim 53, further operable to snoop on the network according to the receive code.



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55. (New) Logic for communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, the logic encoded in media and operable to:

generate a message packet comprising a destination code and the data packet, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each of the positions corresponding to a particular receiver;

identify one or more receivers for the data packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers; and

communicate the data packet to the identified receivers using the network.

56. (New) The logic of Claim 55, wherein the device is a switching unit having a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

57. (New) The logic of Claim 55, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

58. (New) The logic of Claim 55, wherein the logic operable to communicate the data packet comprises the logic operable to communicate the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

59. (New) The logic of Claim 55, further operable to:

receive the destination code;

compare the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of a receive code, the receive code associated with a receiver and comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver; and

determine whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

60. (New) The logic of Claim 59, further operable to snooping on the network according to the receive code.



61. (New) A message packet for communication using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

a data packet; and

a destination code, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers operable to identify one or more receivers for the data packet, the data packet operable to be communicated to the identified receivers.

62. (New) The message packet of Claim 61, wherein the device is a switching unit further comprising a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

63. (New) The message packet of Claim 61, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

64. (New) The message packet of Claim 61, wherein the data packet is operable to be communicated to the one or more identified receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

65. (New) The message packet of Claim 61, wherein the destination code is operable to be communicated to each receiver and each receiver has an associated receive code comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the destination code operable to be received by each receiver and the value for at least one position of the destination code compared with the value for at least one position of the receive code by the receiver to determine whether to receive the data packet.

66. (New) A telecommunications device, comprising:
means for generating a message packet comprising an arbitration code and the data
packet;

means for communicating a first value of the arbitration code using the network;

means for determining a network value;

means for determining that the first value matches the network value;

means for communicating a second value of the arbitration code; and

means for determining whether to communicate the data packet using the network;

the first and second values of the arbitration code comprising one of:

first and second message priority code values;

a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and

first and second sender address values.



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